4: Joseph et al D, E-5 (1942-1943) 1949
NU28 Papago NU28

total Papago income, but farming furnishes basic subsistence for over three-quarters of the families on the Reservation. It is now believed that cattle will never be fundamental in Papago economy but should be regarded as a supplement to the real basis of Reservation life—farming.

Other sources of income are few. About 6 per cent of tribal income (including subsistence) is derived from firewood and fenceposts cut from mesquite. There are known small deposits of gold, silver, lead, and manganese on the Reservation, but they are in the hands of whites and offer nothing but a little employment to Indians, as the Papago have only surface rights to their land, and any mineral rights belong to the federal government. (Any miner may acquire rights on payment of rental of the land and fees for destruction of property.) This is a sore point with the Papago, since they are the only Indians who do not have rights to minerals under their lands.[4]

Handicrafts furnish a small part of tribal income—about 3 per cent. The bulk of this income comes from the sale of baskets and pottery[5] through the tribal Arts and Crafts Board, which was established under the auspices of the federal Indian Arts and Crafts Board to provide a market for Papago handiwork. Papago baskets, made of yucca, willow, bear grass, and devil's-claw, are of the close-coil type; decorative design in black and white, with occasional green or red, is simple but often strikingly beautiful in its sharp contrasts. Through assisting the Papago to improve their work and get better prices for it, the Arts and Crafts Board should help to raise Reservation income. It should also give the Desert People experience in co-operative business which may serve as a foundation for ventures in other fields.

There are a few small Papago business enterprises on the Reservation, most of them trading posts, but returns from these stores are a minute fraction of tribal income. An increasing share of Papago income is from paid labor. As previously stated, for generations the Desert People tided themselves over lean years by going to Mexico or to the Pima country to work for ranchers or farmers, who paid them in food and seed. Now, however, wage work (and cattle sales) are shifting Papago economy from a barter to a cash basis. Em-

4. The reasons for this anomalous situation are partly political. Under the Gadsden Purchase Treaty of 1854, the United States agreed to respect the laws and customs prevailing in the area under Mexican rule. Since Spanish days, mineral rights had belonged to the crown or the state. For two years (1932–34) Papago lands were withdrawn from mineral entry and claim, but renewal of the treaty provisions was made a part of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. Papago resentment is understandable, since some other Indian tribes derive substantial income from mineral leases. Known deposits on the Reservation are small, but there is always the chance of discoveries, since great copper deposits are being worked near by.

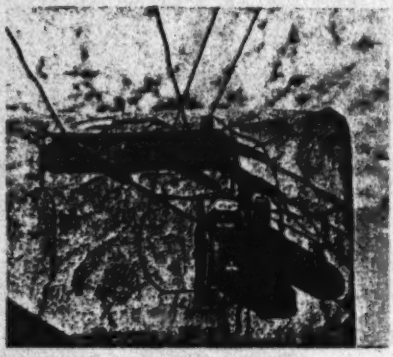
5. The Papago also make rawhide ropes, wooden spoons, and other articles, chiefly for their own use.

[Text continues on p. 37-Analyst]

19: Dobyns E-5 (1950) 1951 NU28 Papago NU28

[Arizona Labor Camps]

365 ←
415
252
291
35 →



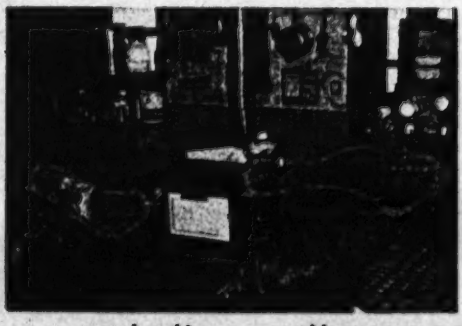
Some camps had electricity...

and cooking was easier.

291
313 ←

252
35
415 →

Most camps had a wood pile...



and cooking was a problem.

19: Dobyns E-5 (1950) 1951 NU28 Papago-NU28

ECONOMIC NECESSITY

Basic reasons Papagos Work--

433 In a rural area, there are not many choices of
[463] livelihood--farming, mining, lumbering, raising cattle.
[657] The Papago reservations have no timber worth cutting
[313] other than mesquite trees for firewood. The Papago
[316] reservations are the only lands in the U. S. reserved
[464] for Indians which are open to mineral entry by outsiders. Consequently mining claims are held by non-Papagos, and profits go elsewhere. The only way the Desert People can benefit from mines is by selling their labor to the owners.

241 Farming is risky for the Desert People. Only two
311 communities have irrigated lands which can be depended
433 upon for crops. The rest must resort to age-old techniques of flood farming where arroyos spread flood waters from mountains. Spots that can be farmed this way are not abundant. They are being decreased each summer as gullies wash out fields and arroyos cover them with sterile sand and gravel washed down from overgrazed and eroding slopes above. Flood farming was never more than a subsistence measure because of the size limitation on fields, and frequent crop failures from flooding out, frost, or drought. Today, there is little incentive to gamble on a subsistence farm for any
[464] Papago able to speak enough English to get a job. For
[511] wage labor means a super-subsistence income, even if a substandard one by Anglo lights.

241 Probably every worker on the Papago reservations
433 has noticed the steady abandonment of flood farms. A-
464 mong Papago cotton pickers with these farms, less than
221 half apparently bother to plant any crops at all nowadays.[1] Cotton picking starts just about the time fields need weeding on the reserves, and picking season hits its peak just about the time flood field crops are ready to harvest. This conflict between flood-farm growing season and wage-labor season in the cotton fields results in many Papago laborers not planting crops at all on the reserves.

433 Another factor discouraging flood farm planting is
241 that these small plots produce only subsistence crops
461 at best, even if the gamble against drought and over-

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[1] 5 families of 11 giving information had any crops at all in 1950.

3: Whited G-5 (1890) 1894 NT15 River Yumans
Papago NU28

133 134 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REGION.—The territory covered by the Papagos in their migrations, and in which their villages are located, consists of mountain ranges and the intervening valleys. The soil of the valleys contains a considerable proportion of clay, so that it is all called adobe soil. In the mesas or plains occasional strips of sand occur. Along the arroyos, or dry water channels, deposits of gravel are numerous. The arroyos become raging torrents during the rainy season, rendering travel impossible or dangerous during the temporary flood. The soil of the foothills is very rocky. Alkali is present in the soil in varying proportions, giving the characteristic name to the vast stretch of country known as the alkali desert. It is not the presence of alkali, however, that makes the desert, but the absence of water. An abundant water supply renders this alkali soil equal in fertility to any soil in the country. As it is, the valleys contain a great deal of arable land, 137 which is evident from the great areas covered with grass, which form the stock ranges, and from occasional sections where weeds grow so luxuriantly after the rainy season as to overtop a man on horseback. Some portions of the valleys are covered with mesquite trees and bushes, and also sagebrush, but these sections produce abundant crops when irrigated.

132 CLIMATE.—The climate is very mild, being neither extremely cold in winter nor hot in summer. The mean average temperature during the summer of 1889 was 81.3°, and during the winter of 1889–1890 it was 52.6°.

312 WATER SUPPLY.—There are occasional wells found among the Indian villages. Natural water holes are quite numerous, and by raising embankments of earth in favorable localities the Papagos make huge ponds or reservoirs, which they call tanks. These natural and artificial reservoirs are only serviceable for the temporary storage of water, and toward the last they become filthy mudholes. The Indians, however, continue to use the water as long as it can possibly be considered a fluid. In one place the Papagos have dug a well 60 feet deep, and with incredible labor have made a footpath from the top of the ground to the level of the water.

Water is found by boring at a depth of from 200 to 600 feet, but no flowing wells have yet been obtained in the territory. The water in the wells rises from 50 to 150 feet, and then is raised to the surface by steam pumps. The Indians, however, have not the financial resources with which to sink or operate artesian wells. When their tanks are exhausted they remove with droves and herds to the valleys and canyons in the mountains, frequently crossing over into Mexico.

137 TIMBER.—The varieties of timber within the Papago range are the willow, cottonwood, mesquite, palo verde, and on the southern and western mountain slopes the oak. The mesquite is the most common timber, as it grows freely on the mesas. It rivals the hickory as firewood, throwing out great heat, and the coals retain fire even longer than coals of hickory. The mesquite, however, is very easy to cut, and is handled with far less labor than hickory.

137 272 262 [273] [313] FRUITS AND NUTS.—The sahuaro (giant cactus), which grows on the rocky soil of the foothills and covers the moderate mountain ranges, rises in height from 10 to 60 feet, and is a mass of vegetable matter, supported by an internal skeleton of ribs or poles of woody fiber. The fruit of this remarkable plant grows out of the top of the trunk and arms, and constitutes an important article of food, the Papagos almost living upon it during June, July, and a part of August. They gather it with long poles, and eat it either fresh or after it has been dried. They make from the juice a syrup and a drink which is slightly charged with alcohol. Although the ribs of the sahuaro are very valuable, the Indians never destroy the plant, and are greatly incensed if a white man cuts one down; but when the cactus dies and the vegetable matter dries, powders, and falls away, leaving the ribs exposed and bare, they are used as supports for the dirt roofs of adobe houses, for the sides of houses when plastered with mud, for poultry and pigeon houses, and other small structures.

262 [273] [388] The Papagos eat the fruit of the prickly pear cactus and make a syrup from its juice; from the mescal (sweet aloe) a highly intoxicating drink is made. The root, which is bulbous, grows partly under and partly above the ground, and when roasted it is very delicious, and great quantities are consumed by the Papagos. They dig out of the ground a vegetable which appears to be a species of wild onion, but they call it a groundnut, and relish it highly when boiled. A very useful plant found in large quantities, called the soap plant (amole), forms a substitute for soap.

282 The tannin root, resembling the sweet potato in appearance, grows in great profusion. It contains a large portion of tannic acid, and is a substitute for the astringent barks, hemlock and oak, which are used in tanneries.

262 252 FOOD.—In addition to the fruits, nuts, and flesh already mentioned, their food consists of wheat flour (usually formed by the women on a metate) prepared in simple ways, parched wheat and corn, boiled wheat and corn, flour made from the mesquite bean, beans, boiled squash, green and dried squash seeds, beef, and poultry.

181 [464] INDUSTRY.—The Papagos seem to be esteemed by the whites in general as the best Indians in the territory. They are industrious, and are good help in mines, on ranches, in the harvest field, and on stock ranges. They easily learn the mechanical arts, and set and handle mining drills as well as white men. The engineer at the Quijotoa mines said that his assistant was a Papago, and that he was fully competent to run the engine.

[312] In practical irrigation the Indians are conceded to be the superiors of the whites, and in their domain this is the foundation of agricultural skill. When properly educated there can be no doubt of their ability to acquire the scientific principles of the art.